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NO. 4186.

WEATHER—FAIR; WARMER.

WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 1918.

ONE CENT in Washington and Suburbs. Elsewhere Two Cents.

U.S. TROOPS LAID AT VLADIVOSTOK

FLANKERS DEATH GRAPPLE RAGING; HAIG HOLDS FIRM

Fierce Attacks and Counter-Blows Mark Day--White Sheet Ridge, Now Drenched with Blood, Is Being Held by the British.

ENEMY IS AIMING AT RAILWAYS

Hindenburg Strives at Several Points to Cut Allies' Communications--Battle Storm Sways.

London, April 11.—The death grapple between Briton and Teuton on the 25-mile front in Flanders rages on. "White Sheet Ridge"—an almost ironical surname now that the famous range is once more bathed in blood—was late today still firmly held by the British.

Crown Prince Rupprecht's shock troops had nibbled away slices of the eastern slopes last night and early today, but the Canadians in brilliant counter attacks bayoneted these invaders and recovered every foot of the ridge.

Haig means to hold it at all costs, for with its fall his whole Arras-Ypres ridge must cave in.

Armistice Abandoned.

The German wedges north and south of the Lys have been pushed forward. Armistices, hopelessly outflanked and rocking with poisonous fumes has been abandoned by the British. At first accounts the late were holding the Teutons on this point. South of Ypres, Wyndhoek, Ploegsteert Wood, Steenwerck, Bailleul, Lestrem, Givenchy.

Many a determined counter attack has been launched by the British in the last twenty-four hours, driving the German advanced forces out of the trenches they had penetrated in the initial onslaught.

At this moment word comes of a sudden switching of the storm center from the ridge to the Holbeke-Ypres salient. The Holbeke is essential to the Teutons in their effort to turn both Ypres and the Wytschaete range. It lies three and one half miles south-east of Ypres and about three miles northeast of Wytschaete village.

Meet Murderous Fire.

The little town is just below the Ypres-Comblaines Canal. Not far to the north lies the strategically important Hill 60. There the Canadian machine gunners have been waiting for just such a chance. German storming columns attacking Holbeke deliberately dashed into a murderous fire both from Hill 60 and the "White Sheet Ridge."

From the distant Toul front comes the cheering news of American success. Eight hundred select German troops rushed into what had been planned to be a big raid. It was smothered in the American fire. Not a single American casualty occurred.

Two Germans were captured on the French front American co-operating with the French frustrated German raiding enterprises, of the east of Souain, where the Germans are only a little more than four miles from the Paris-Verdun railway at Suppey, and in the Chemin-de-Dames sector, northwest of Rheims.

Railway Lines For the Objective.

The aim of the German drive in Flanders now stands fully revealed. Hindenburg is proceeding in almost the identical fashion of his eastern campaign, especially important in the Russian. Strategic railway centers and subsequently the lines that radiate from them form his chief objectives. "Cripple the enemy's communication system," is his leit-motif in this whole mammoth offensive.

Having paralyzed the Amiens sectors of the Calais-Paris Railways, he purposes now to put out of commission the supply lines feeding the British northern armies from the channel ports.

South of the Lys the German wedge is heading toward Bethune, a vital rail center and the British base connected with Calais by a double track system. Upon it the British Arras army relies chiefly for its supplies and reserves. The last forty-eight hours' advance has brought the Germans to Givenchy, within six miles of Bethune.

Threatening Communications.

North of the Lys the German salient with its spear-head at Steenwerck is aiming at a similarly important railway center, Bailleul, a little more than four miles northwest of Steenwerck. Beyond Bailleul lie Hazebrouck and St. Omer, on the direct rail to Calais.

Thus, by their drive for rail centers north of the Lys, the Germans are threatening to deprive the British armies at Ypres and northward to the seat of their communication lines, and south of the Lys they aim to cripple the supply system feeding the British forces at Lens, Arras and Vimy Ridge.

By tonight the Teutons had mounded their Lys River wedges virtually into one, five miles west of Arrantieres above the Lys and ten miles southwest of that town below the river.

The Berlin statement that up to Tuesday night 6,000 prisoners and 100 guns had been taken in the Arrantieres did not come as a surprise, since Major General Maurice

4 SHIP LINES REQUISITIONED FOR WAR USE

President Places Coastwise Steamer Equipment in McAdoo's Control.

WAR EMERGENCY SHIPS

Boats to Be Used in Transport Service, Says Report.

Provision to further increase the movement of American troops to France was made last night when President Wilson, by proclamation, took over all vessels, docks, warehouses and other appurtenances of four of the largest coastwise steamship lines of the United States.

"To the end," he explained, "that such systems of transportation be utilized for the transfer and transportation of troops, war material and equipment, to the exclusion, as far as may be necessary, of all other traffic thereon."

Ship Lines Requisitioned.

The lines are: The Clyde Steamship Company, of Maine; the Mallory line, of Maine; the Merchants & Miners' Transportation Company, of Maryland; and the Southern Steamship Company, of Delaware. Wharves, piers, ways and all other appurtenances used by these companies, will likewise go under control of the government. The President put them all under authority of William G. McAdoo, director general of railroads.

By the terms of the proclamation the director general will probably put all of the vessels, a good-sized fleet, into the transportation of troops and materials abroad. This is the second great transportation move that has been made possible for emergency in government operation.

Troops Moving Faster.

Troops are already moving to France three times as fast as military experts at one time conceived to be possible. Last night's action was confidently expected will result in an almost immediate increase in the number going over.

The proclamation becomes effective at 12:01 a. m., April 12, and within twenty-four hours, it is expected, many vessels heretofore engaged in carrying tourist parties up and down the Atlantic Coast, will be undergoing transformation into drab gray transports.

Operation of the lines under the direction of the director general.

3 D. C. SHOPS ORDERED SHUT BY FOOD HEAD

Violators of Flour Rules Must Stop Business for Two Days.

Issuing orders for three business houses of Washington to close their doors today, Clarence Wilson, food dictator of the District of Columbia, yesterday struck the first blow in a campaign against alleged violators of the food laws of the District.

On the stand of the pastry department of Cornwell's grocery store in the downtown district, today and tomorrow, a sign with the legend: "Closed by Order of the Food Administrator," has been ordered displayed.

Not Enough Substitutes.

This is the result of alleged use of too much wheat flour and not enough wheat substitutes in the making of pastries.

J. G. Schuerger, proprietor of a bakery at 219 Ninth street, southeast, and J. Hinkle, another baker, whose shop is at 1322 Seventh street, northwest, are the other two alleged violators of the food laws. Mr. Hinkle has been ordered to cut out production entirely during today and tomorrow, and Mr. Schuerger will be allowed to make only 50 loaves of bread to fill a contract with the Marine Barracks. All other production in his shop has been ordered stopped.

Added to the charges of too free use of wheat flour and loose observance of the flour observance rules, Mr. Wilson stated that in these cases the charge of clearing too large a margin of profit is made.

Other Places Watched.

Several other business houses of Washington, according to the food administrator, have been committing minor violations of the food regulations, and if improvement is not immediately noted, they will also find themselves punished.

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Red Cross Commission Safe.

Richmond, Va., April 11.—Henry W. Anderson, head of the American Red Cross Commission to Roumania, and thirty members of the commission are safe at Kola, a city in Russian Lapland, several hundred miles from the front.

BESSARABIA TO JOIN RUMANIA, IS VOTED

Council Favors Plan, '86 to '5, Berlin Reports. Oppressed Austrian Nations See Only Salvation in Split Empire.

Amsterdam, April 11.—Bessarabian junction with Rumania is reported in Berlin dispatches which say the Bessarabian council voted to that effect, '86 to '5.

Dismemberment Only Hope.

The dismemberment of the Austro-Hungarian empire is declared to be the only hope by which the Poles, Serbs, Rumanians and Bohemians can attain their national rights and ambitions, in the agreements reached at the congress of Oppressed Austrian Nationalities just concluded in Rome. The result was announced in an official Italian cable received here last night.

Agreement was also reached at the Congress between the Italians and the Jugo-Slavs, whereby these two interests will not conflict when the peace settles the fate of the shores of the Adriatic.

The agreement reached by the Austrian nationalities was as follows: "Every people proclaims it to be its right to determine its own nationality and national unity and complete independence."

"Second. Every people knows that the Austro-Hungarian monarchy is the instrument of German domination and a fundamental obstacle to the realization of its rights to free development and self-government."

"Third. The Congress recognizes the necessity of fighting against the common oppressors."

The Agreement.

The Jugo-Slav-Italian agreement was as follows: "The unity and independence of the Jugo-Slav nation is considered of vital importance by Italy. The delivery of the Adriatic sea and its defenses from any enemy is of capital interest to the two peoples. Territorial controversies will be amicably settled on the principle of nationality and in such a manner as not to injure the vital interest of the two nations, an interest which will be taken into account at the peace conference."

M. Benes, the Bohemian delegate, declared that the result of the congress will soon be felt in Austria.

ENEMY GUN LOCATER INVENTED BY ARMY

Scientific research has developed a new and powerful method of warfare for the United States. A series of delicately attuned instruments, which have already proven successful in practice, will enable American fighting forces to determine the precise location of any enemy gun within a distance of ten miles.

This was revealed here tonight by William G. Redfield, Secretary of Commerce, in an address at the National Conference of American Librarians.

He said that the instruments registered velocity and the direction of shells, and that by mathematical computation it was possible to re-

turn fire that would score a bulls-eye practically every time.

The War Department, he declared, has conducted exhaustive experiments at Indian Head, a naval training ground near Washington. One hundred tests were made and shells were fired at a distance not less than four miles. In each instance the time and direction measurements given by the instruments were perfect.

This was established by the sighting of gunners, who scored perfect hits every time at the "enemy's" field pieces. The shells, according to Mr. Redfield, struck within a radius of twenty-five feet of the "enemy" batteries.

The experience of General Pershing has been that the American troops after reaching France are able to learn much quicker under the instruction of French officers who have been trained by four years of strenuous fighting, in all phases of modern warfare.

Furthermore it is pointed out that by sending the French to this country, it will be possible to give the men more advanced training much earlier in the game, and enable them to go to the front and fight as rapidly as they reach the other side.

Following an extended conference last night between Maj. Gen. Peyton C. March, acting chief of staff of the American Army, and General Vignal, military attaché of the French Embassy, a request was made to the French government by General Vignal asking that as many French officers as possible be sent to the United States to speed up training at the National Guard and National Army cantonments.

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U. S. RUSHES FOOD SHIPS TO HOLLAND

Dutch People Facing Severe Shortage in All Eatables.

U-BOATS CAUSE WAIT

Refusal of Safe Conduct by Germany Causes Delay in U. S. Program.

Special measures have been taken by the War Trade Board to rush food to Holland. Three vessels have been authorized immediately to load 14,000 tons of grain and proceed with it at once to the Netherlands.

To Rush Orders.

This step is in addition to the measures for rationing Holland provided in the President's proclamation taking over the Dutch ships, except that the grain now put on rush orders will be charged against the supply provided in the President's proclamation. The rush orders were issued in order that there may be no suffering in the Dutch republic through any delay caused by the carrying out of the terms of the President's proclamation. This despite the fact that the shipment of food to Holland has hitherto been held up by German threats to torpedo Dutch ships because of the seizure of the vessels of that country by the United States. A statement from the War Trade Board says:

In view of the growing scarcity of food in Holland the War Trade Board today authorized immediate shipment of two shipsloads of grain from the United States to Holland.

The Dutch government has been notified that two specified steamers now in American waters may at once load this grain and proceed to the Netherlands.

Option to Substitute.

"The Dutch government may at its option substitute for the steamers equivalent tonnage from steamers which have reached American ports since the date of the President's proclamation taking over the Dutch shipping and which therefore remain under Dutch control."

"A third steamer now in southern waters has been authorized to lift grain from Argentina for immediate transport to Holland. It is understood that the steamer of equivalent tonnage will leave Holland simultaneously to replace the ships from this side."

"The three cargoes in all will amount to 14,000 tons and are in advance of the Dutch government."

SHIPBUILDERS WAITING FOR STEEL PLATES

Supply Director Replogle Says Slow Transportation Causes Delay.

Slow transportation of steel plates from the mills to the shipyards is holding up the ship construction program of England as well as of this country, in spite of the fact that present production is greater than at any other time in American history.

This is brought out in testimony given by J. Leonard Replogle, director of steel supply of the War Industries Board, before the Senate Committee on Commerce. The testimony was given in secret a few days ago, and the committee made it public yesterday.

Allies Supplied Steel.

The testimony reveals the fact that Gen. Pershing secured 70,000 tons of steel from the British government under an agreement that 200,000 tons were to be returned in the form of ship plates. There has been great delay in getting these plates for shipment abroad.

It was also shown that while 62 per cent of the steel has left the mills, only 3 or 4 per cent has been received at Hog Island, where the largest government contracts are being filled.

Mr. Replogle denied that the steel mills have fallen down in production and declared that the biggest factor in the delay was the failure of the transportation systems to get the steel to the mills. Time has also been lost by the policy of the Shipping Board in sending steel to be fabricated in plants far removed from the shipyards. Some of these fabricating plants are at Minneapolis, Kansas City, Chicago, and as far west as Omaha.

It was explained that the Shipping Board believed time would be saved by having the work done in these plants, where the cost is less than in plants farther west.

Mr. Replogle declared that in time of war the Government should not have permitted such a thing to be done; he said not only occasioned loss of time, but was an enormous factor in traffic congestion. He said the eastern mills were not overcrowded and that ship plates had been given absolute priority over every other bit of steel construction.

The effect of the Garfield fuel order upon production of ship plates was also pointed out.

Vicente d'Alte, the Portuguese minister, is lying critically ill at the Emergency Hospital in this city, where he has undergone a surgical operation. Maj. James F. Mitchell, of the Medical Reserve Corps, one of the leading surgeons of Washington, who was under orders to call, was recalled to perform the operation.

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U. S. MARINES ON RUSSIAN SOIL TO GUARD SUPPLIES

Valuable Stores Threatened by German Sympathizers--Americans Will Protect Interests of the Allies.

THE PRESIDENT IS DETERMINED

Understood to Have Sanctioned Joining with Forces of England and Japan as Real Precautionary Measure.

American marines have been landed at Vladivostok, according to unofficial advices received here last night.

Although officials of the State and Navy departments had no official confirmation of the reports up to midnight, it was admitted that information of this kind has been expected.

It is understood here that the American force will work in cooperation with Japanese and British marines already landed at the Siberian seaport to preserve order and protect the vast quantities of war supplies stored at that port.

Report Ships Taken.

According to the unofficial advices received the Americans have also taken possession of several Russian ships in the harbor at Vladivostok. Department officials were unable to assign a reason for this, unless American commander had reason to believe that pro-German crews, who perhaps German officers, were in possession of the vessels, intending to go to sea as raiders.

Ever since the disturbances in Siberia became acute and the prospect of Japanese intervention grew imminent, it was learned units of the American Asiatic squadron have been in the vicinity of Vladivostok awaiting developments.

Have Been Waiting.

The Japanese marines, which were the first to be landed, acted as a result of an attack on Japanese citizens and the killing of a Japanese sailor on shore leave. When the British government decided also to land marines, the situation took on an international aspect that led to the belief in Washington that a change in policy on the part of this government towards the matter had been decided. It was not unlikely, however, that the necessity for combating the German aggression in the Far East and the necessity for combating the German aggression in the Far East and the necessity for combating the German aggression in the Far East.

Further inland the activities of pro-German elements, led in many instances by German officers who were prisoners of war, have become increasingly menacing. Great Britain has made small effort to conceal her alarm over the menace which she believed the situation holds out to her Indian possessions.

Last week the allied governments, to prepare Russia and the world for any steps they might find necessary to make, assured the soviet that their intentions were entirely friendly and in the interest of Russia herself.

Regardless of this, however, the Bolshevik government has frankly expressed its hostility towards any intervention, and yesterday's patches showed where the leaders of that government had asked the Soviets to sanction a postponement of Russian demobilization in view of the Japanese landing at Vladivostok and the possibility of a clash with Japan.

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